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EARTHQUAKE SURVIVAL

"Things To Do" Answer Sheet

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The following is a list of the twenty-five things that most experts agree are most important to do or not do during and immediately after a major earthquake. *Note:* If you live in an area that is earthquake prone, take steps immediately to do these things. Experience shows that the longer you wait, the less likely you are to prepare.

1. Stay put, protect your head and face, and brace yourself from being thrown around.
2. If you can do so quickly and safely enough, duck under a table or sturdy desk that will provide you with cover and air space and hang on to it. If the furniture moves, hold on and move with it.
3. Another option during an earthquake is to brace yourself against the walls of an inner hallway without bookcases, glass on the walls, or things that could break or fly. Put your back against one wall and your feet against the other to stabilize yourself.
4. A third option during an earthquake is to brace yourself in a supported doorway, away from things that could fall on you or break.
5. If you are in a safe area, stay there. Do not attempt to use stairs or elevators. If you are inside, do not attempt to go outside. There are numerous dangers in doing so, including falling debris, damaged stairways or exits, power outages in elevators or stairwells, and trampling or other injury by panicked people.
6. If you are outside, stay there. Move away from high buildings, walls, power lines and poles, lamp posts, etc. Watch for fallen power lines. If possible, proceed cautiously to an open area.
7. Use a flashlight. Do not turn on a light switch. Do not light a match, fire, gas stove, etc., until you are sure there is no danger of gas leakage. Be sure to relight any pilot lights when gas service is restored.
8. Put on sturdy shoes to protect yourself from broken glass, etc. If there is debris, put on sturdy gloves and a dust mask, too. A hard hat/blanket/ coat/ cardboard will help to protect your head from further falling objects.
9. Check for injuries; administer first aid.
10. Check for fires, gas leaks, water leaks, chemical leaks, etc.

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11. Check utilities. Shut off water and gas lines if advisable. Shut off the electricity if necessary and unplug electrical appliances.
12. Collect a moderate amount of cold water from tap if possible and save it.
13. Put telephone receivers back on their cradles, to help the telephone company deal with the overload. Do not use the telephone except in true emergency. Leave the lines open for emergency agencies. If family members are separated, call only your out-of-area contact. Others can call this person for information. Tell this person if you plan to evacuate. Unplug your phones at the wall if you are leaving the area.
14. Turn on a battery- operated radio (or short-wave radio or car radio) and listen for emergency bulletins and instructions.
15. Open doors, cupboards, and closets carefully, checking for structural damage, debris, and falling objects.
16. Clean up hazardous materials. Use work gloves/plastic gloves, hard hats - such as bicycle helmets - and dust masks if needed.
17. Take routine medications.
18. Confine frightened pets.
19. Check that sewer lines are intact before flushing any toilets. Plug tub and sink drains to prevent sewage backup.
20. Do not go without food or water for too long, as this will weaken you.
21. Check for structural damage; evacuate if necessary.
22. Expect and prepare for aftershocks. Check chimneys and other areas that may be unstable and keep people and things away from them.
23. Take mirrors, pictures, china, etc., off walls and put them where they are not hazards.
24. Respond to requests from local officials, police, firefighters, and emergency-relief organizations.
25. Stay in a safe area. Do not drive: leave the streets clear for emergency vehicles. Avoid downed power lines; do not go near damaged structures; do not go near possible landslide areas; do not go near the beach, because of the danger of tsunamis.

Your leader has more complete information on what to do and what not to do.